

It's up to you

Child abuse prevention starts with awareness

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. What can you do? In this special package, you'll learn how to recognize cases of abuse and what your responsibilities are should you encounter a suspected case of abuse. Although the focus here is on child abuse, you'll find information about abuse of elderly and disabled adults, as well.

In Texas, nearly 200,000 children are reported as abused or neglected every year, according to Child Protective Services, a division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). The most common form of child abuse in those cases is neglect.

To better understand child abuse, it's important to know how the definitions of several key terms (from the DFPS 2006 Child Abuse Prevention Kit, available at www.itsuptoyou.org):

Physical abuse is physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child. The physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) can result from punching, beating, shaking, kicking, biting, throwing, stabbing, hitting, burning, choking or otherwise harming a child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.

Neglect is failure to provide for a child's basic needs necessary

to sustain the life or health of the child, excluding failure caused primarily by financial inability unless relief services have been offered and refused.

Sexual abuse includes fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure and exploitation through prostitution or producing pornographic materials.

Emotional abuse is mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in a child's growth, development or psychological functioning. It includes extreme forms of punishment such as confining a child in a dark closet, habitual scapegoating, belittling and rejecting treatment for a child.

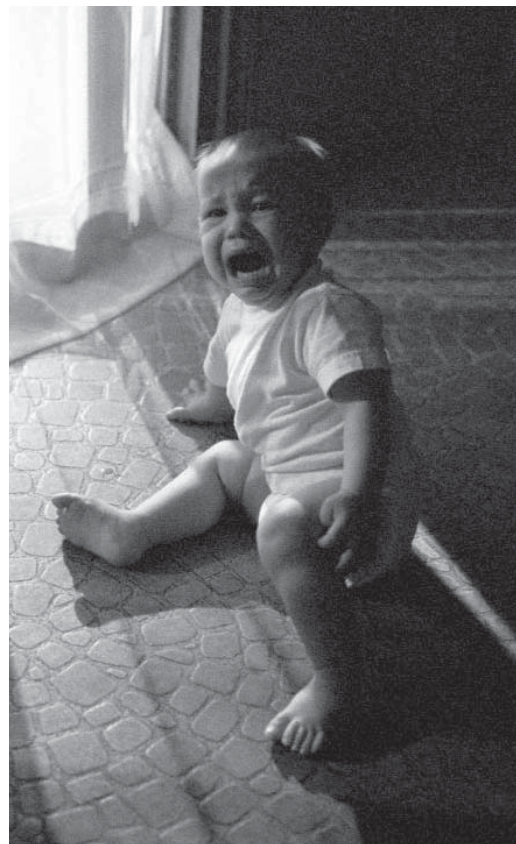


photo from Department of Family and Protective Services Child Abuse Prevention Kit

Child abuse/child abuse prevention resources

It's Up To You

www.itsuptoyou.org

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org

Prevent Child Abuse Texas

www.preventchildabusetexas.org

Texas Council on Family Violence

1-512-794-1133 or www.tcfv.org

Child Help USA

1-800-4-A-CHILD (422-4453) or www.childhelpusa.org

Kids In Cars

1-636-390-8268 or www.kidsincars.org

National Safe Kids Campaign

1-202-662-0600 or www.safekids.org

National Safety Council

1-630-285-1121 or www.nsc.org

Safe Place Disability Services

1-512-267-7233 or www.austin-safeplace.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.ndvh.org

Baby Moses Hotline

1-877-904-SAVE (7283)